

2 Special Information and Programs

The Secretary of State oversees many areas involving traffic safety issues, automobile and other vehicle registrations, and licensing issues. This section provides information about several programs not directly related to motor vehicles, such as voter registration and organ donor programs.

Voter Registration Information

You must be registered to vote to participate in Michigan elections. Eligible residents may register at a Secretary of State branch office.

If you are at a branch office applying for, renewing, or updating information on your driver's license, you also will be provided with an opportunity to register to vote.

To register to vote you must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- At least 18 years of age on or before election day.
- A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you wish to register to vote.

In addition to Secretary of State branch offices, you may register by mail or at your local county, city, or township clerk's office. You must register at least 30 days before the election. If you move within your city or township, you must change the address on your voter registration. If you move to another city or township, you must register to vote in that jurisdiction to remain eligible to vote.

The Secretary of State will enclose a voter registration application with your renewal notice if you are eligible to renew your driver's license by mail. To register, fill out the voter registration form and send it with your driver's license renewal form. Voter registration forms may also be printed from the Secretary of State Web site. If you are already registered and

your address has not changed, you do not need to mail the voter registration form supplied with your driver's license renewal notice.

If the address you provide on a voter registration application does not match the residential address on your driving record, your driving record will be updated to match your voter registration. In such an instance, a change-of-address sticker will be provided for your driver's license.

Organ Donor Program

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential organ, tissue, and eye donors.

The Secretary of State provides several convenient methods for designating your donor wishes. Add your name to the Michigan Organ, Tissue & Eye Donor Registry online at www.Michigan.gov/sos or fill out a donor registry card available at all branch offices. Donor registry cards are also mailed with each new driver's license and state ID card.

You are also encouraged to sign the back of your driver's license or state ID card. However, joining the donor registry remains your most reliable, timely, and convenient means of indicating your wishes.

After you submit your enrollment, the Secretary of State forwards your name and address to Gift of Life Michigan, where the state's donor registry is housed. This confidential, electronic database is available to authorized hospital staff around the clock. Gift of Life Michigan is the state's federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization. In addition to administering the donor registry, it provides donor services and information to healthcare organizations and the public statewide.

The Secretary of State is committed to promoting greater organ, tissue, and eye donor awareness. It actively partners with the Gift of Life Michigan, Michigan Eye-Bank, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, National Kidney Foundation, American Liver Foundation, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and other donor groups.

Even though there are record numbers of recoveries and transplants performed every year, the number of people who wait for a lifesaving transplant continues to grow. On average, 12

Michigan residents die each month waiting for an organ transplant. Typically more than 2,600 Michigan residents await a transplant.

Therefore, it is very important to discuss organ donation with your family. Michigan law does not require family consent for organ donation; however, keeping everyone informed will help avoid any confusion or delays.

If you have a driver's license or state ID card issued before spring 1998, you can make your donor wishes known by obtaining a sticker for the back of your license or ID card at any branch office.

For more information about organ, tissue, and eye donation, call toll free:

Gift of Life Michigan

1-(800) 482-4881; www.giftoflifemichigan.org

Michigan Eye-Bank

1-(800) 247-7250; www.mebtc.org

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan

1-(800) 482-1455; www.nkfm.org

The American Liver Foundation

1-(800) 465-4837; www.liverfoundation.org/michigan

State Identification Cards

A state identification (ID) card can be issued to any eligible resident, regardless of age. You may not have a state ID card and a Michigan driver's license unless your license has been restricted, suspended, or revoked. To obtain a state ID card, visit a Secretary of State branch office. Proof of identification will be required before a state ID card will be issued. Please refer to "Providing Proof of Identity" in Chapter 1 or contact a Secretary of State branch office or the Secretary of State Web site for more information about acceptable identification. All identification is subject to Secretary of State approval.

There is a fee for a state ID card, but the cards are issued free to residents who are blind, age 65 or older, or who have had their driving privileges terminated due to a mental or physical disabil-

ity. Your state ID card expires four years from your last birthday and may be renewed by mail. Under Michigan law, a state ID card is as valid as a driver's license for identification purposes.